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Attorney for Plaintiff
Strike 3 Holdings, LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN DOE subscriber assigned IP address
73.231.253.167,

Defendant.

Case Number:

**COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT - DEMAND FOR JURY
TRIAL**

Plaintiff, Strike 3 Holdings, LLC (“Strike 3” or “Plaintiff”), brings this complaint against Defendant, John Doe subscriber assigned IP address 73.231.253.167 (“Defendant”), and alleges as follows:

Introduction

1. This is a case about the ongoing and wholesale copyright infringement of Plaintiff’s motion pictures by Defendant, currently known only by an IP address.

2. Plaintiff is the owner of award winning, critically acclaimed adult motion pictures.

3. Strike 3’s motion pictures are distributed through the *Blacked*, *Tushy*, *Vixen*, and *Blacked Raw* adult websites and DVDs. With millions of unique visitors to its websites each month, the brands are famous for redefining adult content, creating high-end, artistic, and

1 performer-inspiring motion pictures produced with a Hollywood style budget and quality.

2 4. Defendant is, in a word, stealing these works on a grand scale. Using the
3 BitTorrent protocol, Defendant is committing rampant and wholesale copyright infringement by
4 downloading Strike 3's motion pictures as well as distributing them to others. Defendant did
5 not infringe just one or two of Strike 3's motion pictures, rather, Defendant has been recorded
6 infringing 90 movies over an extended period of time.

7 5. Although Defendant attempted to hide this theft by infringing Plaintiff's content
8 anonymously, Defendant's Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), Comcast Cable, can identify
9 Defendant through his or her IP address 73.231.253.167.

10 6. In an effort to conserve Federal judicial resources, Strike 3 originally moved to
11 discover Defendant's identity utilizing a state court procedure in Florida where Strike 3's
12 infringement detection servers are located. Defendant objected asserting that the action is more
13 properly litigated in the federal court of his or her domicile. Because Plaintiff is amenable to
14 litigating the matter in either forum, this suit was initiated.

15 7. This is a civil action seeking damages under the United States Copyright Act of
16 1976, *as amended*, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the "Copyright Act").

17 **Jurisdiction and Venue**

18 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
19 § 1331 (federal question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (jurisdiction over copyright actions).

20 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant used an
21 Internet Protocol address ("IP address") traced to a physical address located within this District
22 to commit copyright infringement. Therefore: (i) Defendant committed the tortious conduct
23 alleged in this Complaint in this State; and, (ii) Defendant resides in this State and/or;
24 (iii) Defendant has engaged in substantial – and not isolated – business activity in this State.

25 10. Plaintiff used IP address geolocation technology by Maxmind Inc. ("Maxmind"),
26 an industry-leading provider of IP address intelligence and online fraud detection tools, to
27 determine that Defendant's IP address traced to a physical address in this District. Over 5,000
28 companies, along with United States federal and state law enforcement, use Maxmind's GeoIP

1 data to locate Internet visitors, perform analytics, enforce digital rights, and efficiently route
2 Internet traffic.

3 11. To ensure that Defendant's IP address accurately traced to this District, Plaintiff
4 inputted Defendant's IP address into Maxmind's GeoIP database twice: first when it learned of
5 the infringement and again, just prior to filing this lawsuit.

6 12. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), venue is proper in this district because:
7 (i) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District;
8 and, (ii) the Defendant resides (and therefore can be found) in this District and resides in this
9 State. Additionally, venue is proper in this District pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) (venue for
10 copyright cases) because Defendant or Defendant's agent resides or may be found in this
11 District.

12 **Parties**

13 13. Plaintiff, Strike 3 is a Delaware limited liability company located at 2140 S.
14 Dupont Hwy, Camden, DE.

15 14. Plaintiff currently can only identify Defendant by his or her IP address.
16 Defendant's IP address is 73.231.253.167. Defendant's name and address can be provided by
17 Defendant's Internet Service Provider.

18 **Factual Background**

19 ***Plaintiff's Award-Winning Copyrights***

20 15. Strike 3's subscription-based websites proudly boast a paid subscriber base that
21 is one of the highest of any adult-content sites in the world. Strike 3 also licenses its motion
22 pictures to popular broadcasters and Strike 3's motion pictures are the number one selling adult
23 DVDs in the United States.

24 16. Strike 3's motion pictures and websites have won numerous awards, such as
25 "best cinematography," "best new studio," and "adult site of the year."

26 17. Strike 3's motion pictures have had positive global impact, leading more adult
27 studios to invest in better content, higher pay for performers, and to treat each performer with
28 respect and like an artist.

1 18. Unfortunately, Strike 3, like a large number of other makers of motion picture
2 and television works, is plagued by Internet piracy. Often appearing among the most infringed
3 popular entertainment content on torrent websites, Strike 3's motion pictures are among the
4 most pirated content in the world.

5 ***Defendant Used the BitTorrent File Distribution Network***
6 ***to Infringe Plaintiff's Copyrights***

7 19. BitTorrent is a system designed to quickly distribute large files over the Internet.
8 Instead of downloading a file, such as a movie, from a single source, BitTorrent users are able
9 to connect to the computers of other BitTorrent users in order to simultaneously download and
10 upload pieces of the file from and to other users.

11 20. BitTorrent's popularity stems from the ability of users to directly interact with
12 each other to distribute a large file without creating a heavy load on any individual source
13 computer and/or network. It enables Plaintiff's motion pictures, which are often filmed in state
14 of the art 4kHD, to be transferred quickly and efficiently.

15 21. To share a movie within the BitTorrent network, a user first uses BitTorrent
16 software to create a .torrent file from the original digital media file. This process breaks the
17 original digital media file down into numerous pieces.

18 22. The entire movie file being shared has a hash value (*i.e.*, the "File Hash"). A
19 hash value is an alpha-numeric value of a fixed length that uniquely identifies data.

20 23. Hash values are not arbitrarily assigned to data merely for identification
21 purposes, but rather are the product of a cryptographic algorithm applied to the data itself. As
22 such, while two identical sets of data will produce the same cryptographic hash value, any
23 change to the underlying data – no matter how small – will change the cryptographic hash value
24 that correlates to it.

25 24. To find and re-assemble the pieces of the digital media file, *i.e.*, to download the
26 file using BitTorrent, a user must obtain the .torrent file for the specific file that has been broken
27 down into pieces.

28 25. Each .torrent file contains important metadata with respect to the pieces of the

1 file. When this data is put into the cryptographic algorithm, it results in a hash value called the
2 “Info Hash.”

3 26. The “Info Hash” is the data that the BitTorrent protocol uses to identify and
4 locate the other pieces of the desired file (in this case, the desired file is the respective file for
5 the infringing motion pictures that are the subject of this action) across the BitTorrent network.

6 27. Using the Info Hash in the metadata of a .torrent file, a user may collect all the
7 pieces of the digital media file that correlates with the specific .torrent file.

8 28. Once a user downloads all of the pieces of that digital media file from other
9 BitTorrent users, the digital media file is automatically reassembled into its original form, ready
10 for playing.

11 29. Plaintiff has developed, owns, and operates an infringement detection system,
12 named “VXN Scan.”

13 30. Using VXN Scan, Plaintiff discovered that Defendant used the BitTorrent file
14 network to illegally download and distribute Plaintiff’s copyrighted motion pictures.

15 31. To explain, while Defendant was using the BitTorrent file distribution network,
16 VXN Scan established direct TCP/IP connections with Defendant’s IP address.

17 32. VXN Scan downloaded from Defendant one or more pieces of numerous digital
18 media files.

19 33. Plaintiff identified these pieces as portions of infringing copies of Strike 3’s
20 motion pictures.

21 34. To explain, the VXN Scan system first searched for and obtained .torrent files
22 claiming to be infringing copies of Plaintiff’s works, and then downloaded complete copies of
23 the digital media files that correlate to those .torrent files.

24 35. Plaintiff then compared the completed digital media files to Plaintiff’s
25 copyrighted works to determine whether they are infringing copies of one of Plaintiff’s
26 copyrighted works.

27 36. The digital media files have been verified to contain a digital copy of a motion
28 picture that is identical (or, alternatively, strikingly similar or substantially similar) to Plaintiff’s

1 corresponding original copyrighted Works.

2 37. VNX Scan then used the “Info Hash” value, contained within the metadata of the
3 .torrent file correlated with a digital media file that was determined to be identical (or
4 substantially similar) to a copyrighted work, to download a piece (or pieces) of the same digital
5 media file from Defendant using the BitTorrent network.

6 38. At no point did VNX Scan upload content to any BitTorrent user. Indeed, it is
7 incapable of doing so.

8 39. The VNX Scan captured transactions from Defendant sharing specific pieces of
9 90 digital media files that have been determined to be identical (or substantially similar) to a
10 copyrighted work(s) that Plaintiff owns.

11 40. VNX Scan recorded each transaction in a PCAP file.

12 41. VNX Scan recorded multiple transactions in this matter.

13 42. For each work infringed a single transaction is listed on Exhibit A.

14 43. For each transaction listed, Exhibit A sets forth the Universal Time Coordinated
15 (UTC) time and date of each transaction, along with (1) the Info Hash value obtained from the
16 metadata of the corresponding .torrent file that formed the basis of the VNX Scan’s request for
17 data , and (2) the File Hash value of the digital media file itself.

18 44. Exhibit A also sets forth relevant copyright information for each work at issue:
19 the date of publication, the date of registration, and the work’s copyright registration number.
20 In a showing of good faith, Plaintiff has intentionally omitted the title of the work from this
21 public filing due to the adult nature of its content, but can provide a version of Exhibit A
22 containing the works’ titles to the Court or any party upon request.

23 45. Thus, Defendant downloaded, copied, and distributed Plaintiff’s Works without
24 authorization.

25 46. Defendant’s infringement was continuous and ongoing.

26 47. Plaintiff owns the copyrights to the Works and the Works have been registered
27 with the United States Copyright Office.

28 48. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages, attorneys’ fees, and costs under

1 17 U.S.C. § 501 of the United States Copyright Act.

2 **COUNT I**

3 **Direct Copyright Infringement**

4 49. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1-48 are hereby re-alleged as if fully set
5 forth herein.

6 50. Plaintiff is the owner of the Works, which are each an original work of
7 authorship.

8 51. Defendant copied and distributed the constituent elements of Plaintiff's Works
9 using the BitTorrent protocol.

10 52. At no point in time did Plaintiff authorize, permit or consent to Defendant's
11 copying, distribution, performance and/or display of its Works, expressly or otherwise.

12 53. As a result of the foregoing, Defendant violated Plaintiff's exclusive right to:

13 (A) Reproduce its Works in copies, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1) and 501;

14 (B) Distribute copies of the Works to the public by sale or other transfer of
15 ownership, or by rental, lease or lending, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(3) and 501;

16 (C) Perform the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(4) and 501, by
17 showing the Works' images in any sequence and/or by making the sounds accompanying the
18 Works' audible and transmitting said performance of the work, by means of a device or process,
19 to members of the public capable of receiving the display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's
20 definitions of "perform" and "publicly" perform); and

21 (D) Display the copyrighted Works, in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(5) and 501, by
22 showing individual images of the works non-sequentially and transmitting said display of the
23 works by means of a device or process to members of the public capable of receiving the
24 display (as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 101's definition of "publicly" display).

25 54. Defendant's infringements were committed "willfully" within the meaning of
26 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2).

27 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

28 (A) Permanently enjoin Defendant from continuing to infringe Plaintiff's

1 copyrighted Works;

2 (B) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the digital media files
3 relating to Plaintiff's Works from each of the computers under Defendant's possession, custody
4 or control;

5 (C) Order that Defendant delete and permanently remove the infringing copies of the
6 Works Defendant has on computers under Defendant's possession, custody or control;

7 (D) Award Plaintiff statutory damages per infringed work pursuant to
8 17 U.S.C. § 504(a) and (c);

9 (E) Award Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to
10 17 U.S.C. § 505; and

11 (F) Grant Plaintiff any other and further relief this Court deems just and proper.

12 DATED this 21st day of August, 2020.

13 **Law Offices of Lincoln Bandlow, PC**

14 s/ Lincoln D. Bandlow
15 Lincoln D. Bandlow
16 Attorneys for Plaintiff
Strike 3 Holdings, LLC

17 **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

18 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

19 DATED this 21st day of August, 2020.

20 **Law Offices of Lincoln Bandlow, PC**

21 s/ Lincoln D. Bandlow
22 Lincoln D. Bandlow
23 Attorneys for Plaintiff
24 Strike 3 Holdings, LLC
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